

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 9 remain in the application. Only Claim 1 is in independent form.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber et al. (WO Patent 02/053421) in view of Kotlarski (U.S. Patent 6,668,419).

Weber '421 discloses a connection system for a wiper blade including an intermediate adaptor (66) pivotally carried on a connecting element (26) and including a tab-like catch (88) for engaging and locking the wiper arm end (50) in an operative condition. Weber '421 fails to disclose several important elements as now recited in independent Claim 1 of the subject application.

These shortcomings include the lack of a shaped hole corresponding to the resilient tongue, which shaped hole is provided in a base portion of the U-shaped cross-section of the oscillating wiper arm.

Kotlarski '419, like Weber '421, also fails to disclose numerous features recited in the amended Claim 1 herein. For one example, Kotlarski fails to provide any teaching whatsoever of a shaped hole corresponding to at least one resilient tongue, wherein the hole is provided in a base portion of the U-shaped cross-section of the oscillating wiper arm.

It is well settled that a *prima facie* case of obviousness requires, *inter alia*, that all of the claimed features be discernible from the combined teachings of the prior art. However, in the instant case, neither Kotlarski '419 nor Weber '421 disclose the feature of a shaped hole corresponding to at least one resilient tongue, which shaped hole is formed in a base of the U-

shaped cross-section portion of the oscillating wiper arm. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on obviousness over Weber '421 in view of Kotlarski '419 is overcome.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber et al. (WO Patent 02/053421) in view of Kotlarski (U.S. Patent 6,668,419), as applied to Claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Baseotto et al. (WO Patent 02/34594).

Baseotto '594 discloses a connection system for a wiper blade including an intermediate retainer (14) pivotally carried on a connection element (38). The oscillating end of the wiper arm (10) couples to the intermediate retainer (14) and is retained in position through a cantilevered tongue (82) that engages in a hole (84) in the top of the wiper arm.

Claim 8, the only remaining claim relevant under this rejection, requires at least two lateral resilient tongues extending outwardly from the joint part. Neither Baseotto '594, nor any of the other references here relied upon teach at least two lateral resilient tongues in the manner set forth in Claim 8 of the subject application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is overcome.

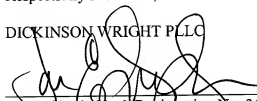
Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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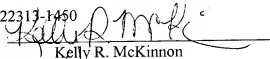
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